

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) An apparatus for use in medical procedures for treating subdural hematomas, the apparatus comprising a dual lumen catheter comprising, in combination:

a drainage channel having a proximal portion and a distal portion; and

an irrigation channel having a proximal portion and a distal portion wherein said irrigation channel being disposed inside said drainage channel; ~~said irrigation channel comprising~~

a plurality of fluid-carrying tubes extending laterally through said drainage channel each having one end coupled in fluid communication to an interior ~~said distal portion~~ of said irrigation channel, ~~each opposite end of said plurality of tubes coupled to said drainage channel~~ so that said plurality of tubes support said irrigation channel inside said drainage channel while at the same time said plurality of tubes being dimensioned to deliver an irrigant from said irrigation channel to a subdural space laterally, through said drainage channel.

Claims 12-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) A method for treating subdural hematomas comprising, in combination, the steps of:

inserting a dual lumen catheter into a subdural space without penetrating the brain;

draining said subdural space of a subdural fluid collection with said dual lumen catheter;

and

irrigating said subdural space using said dual lumen catheter.

Claim 15 (original) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

providing a drainage channel having a proximal portion and a distal portion;

providing an irrigation channel having a proximal portion and a distal portion;

wherein said drainage channel and said irrigation channel comprise said dual lumen

catheter;

draining said subdural space of a subdural fluid collection using said drainage channel of said dual lumen catheter; and

irrigating said subdural space using said irrigation channel of said dual lumen catheter.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A method for treating subdural hematomas comprising, in combination, the steps of:

inserting a dual lumen catheter into a subdural space without penetrating the brain;  
draining said subdural space of a subdural fluid collection with said dual lumen catheter;  
irrigating said subdural space using said dual lumen catheter;  
providing a drainage channel having a proximal portion and a distal portion;  
providing an irrigation channel having a proximal portion and a distal portion;  
wherein said drainage channel and said irrigation channel comprise said dual lumen catheter;  
draining said subdural space of subdural collection fluid through perforations defined by said drainage channel; and  
irrigating said subdural space through perforations defined by said irrigation channel while draining of said subdural space by said drainage channel is performed.

Claim 17 (original) The method of Claim 16 wherein each of said drainage perforations having a diameter of between approximately .5 and 2 millimeters.

Claim 18 (original) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:  
providing a pressure valve coupled to said proximal portion of said irrigation channel;  
and  
operating said pressure valve in order to regulate a flow of fluid irrigation from said pressure valve to said irrigation channel.

Claim 19 (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:  
providing an irrigation container dimensioned to retain an irrigation solution;  
coupling said container to said pressure valve; and  
operating said pressure valve in order to regulate a flow of fluid irrigation from said  
pressure valve to said irrigation channel.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 further comprising the step of  
coupling said container to said pressure valve with a luer lock fitting.

Claim 21 (original) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:  
providing a drainage container dimensioned to receive subdural collection fluid from said  
drainage channel;  
coupling said drainage container to a proximal end of said proximal portion of said  
drainage channel; and  
draining said subdural space of said subdural collection fluid so that said drainage  
container fills with said subdural collection fluid from said subdural space.

Claim 22 (original) The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of drilling a hole  
into a skull.

Claim 23 (currently amended) A method for treating subdural hematomas comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a tuohy needle having a curved tip;

drilling a hole in a skull;

inserting said tuohy needle into said subdural space of said skull without penetrating the brain;

inserting a dual lumen catheter into said tuohy needle without penetrating the brain;

draining said subdural space of a subdural fluid collection with said dual lumen catheter;

irrigating said subdural space using said dual lumen catheter; and

removing said tuohy needle from said subdural space.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A method for treating subdural hematomas comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a tuohy needle having a curved tip;

drilling a hole in a skull;

inserting said tuohy needle into a subdural space of said skull without penetrating the brain;

inserting a guide wire into said tuohy needle approximately parallel to the brain;

removing said tuohy needle from said subdural space;

advancing a dual lumen catheter along said guide wire into said subdural space without penetrating the brain;

draining said subdural space of a subdural fluid collection with said dual lumen catheter;

irrigating said subdural space using said dual lumen catheter; and

removing said guide wire from said subdural space.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A method for treating subdural hematomas comprising, in combination, the steps of:

drilling a hole in a skull;

inserting a stylette into a dual lumen catheter in order to give said dual lumen catheter rigidity;

inserting said dual lumen catheter into a subdural space without penetrating the brain;

draining said subdural space of a subdural fluid collection with said dual lumen catheter;

irrigating said subdural space using said dual lumen catheter; and

removing said stylette from said dual lumen catheter.

Claim 26 (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein said draining of said subdural space occurring over approximately three days.

Claim 27 (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein said irrigating of said subdural space occurring over approximately between 1-2 days.

Claims 28-33 (cancelled)